(c) The matter is under consideration of Government.

Proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government for Procurement of Rigs

801. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that because of the varying typical geological conditions, it is not possible to drill tube wells by available DTH rig machines in some of the districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether a proposal from the Madhya Pradesh Government for procurement of 12 combination type new generation rigs is lying pending with the Central Government;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to clear the proposal and provide adequate financial assistance for the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Due to varied geological formations and difficult terrain, special rigs with greater drilling capacity and manoeuverability are required for drilling operations in some parts of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has intimated their requirement of 12 combination type drilling rigs to the Central Government. However, as the supply of drinking water to rural areas is a State subject, State Governments are to plan, formulate and implement rural drinking water supply schemes. The Central Government provides financial assistance to supplement the efforts of the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Financial assistance under ARWSP is not provided for purchase of rigs. The rigs required for implementing rural water supply programme are procured by the States themselves. However, for meeting drinking water scarcity, an ad-hoc ways and means advance of Rs 1 05 crores has been made available to Madhya Pradesh for the purchase of 4 drilling rigs including one combination type rig during the current year, as part of drought assistance.

Drought conditions in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Praesh

802. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have faced severe drought conditions during 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what efforts have been made by the Central Government to help the State Governments to meet the situation; and

(d) the funds made available to combat the drought situation for the State Government concerned to 1986-87 and 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The damages reported by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh during 1985-86 and 1986-87 are as under:—

	Madhya Pradesh		Uttar Pradesh	
	1985-86	1986-87	1985-86	1986-87
1. No. of district affected	23	20	26	53
2. Population affected (in lakh)	120.00	80 00	80 77	706 87
3. Cropped area affected (in lakh ha.)	15 00	34 41	10.65	89.01
4. Cattle affected (in lakh Nos.)	51·68	52·00	231·51	320·16

(c) and (d) In response to the memoranda submitted by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh since 1985-86 seeking Central assistance for drought relief, the following ceilings of expenditure have been approved to the State Governments:—

(*Rs. in crores*)

Year	Ceilings of expenditure approved for drought	
	Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh
1985-86	51·11	51·78
1986-87	22.70	10·88
1987-88	115·188*	155.942

* Includes Rs. 34 00 crores for 1988-89.

Import of Rice

803. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import rice to meet the demand;

(b) if so, what is the quantity proposed to be imported (with value in foreign exchange) and what are the reasons for resorting to imports when the country had attained self-sufficiency in rice production;

(c) what is the anticipated shortfall in the rice production in Kharif season during the current year as against the target and percentage by which the rice carry over stocks are likely to decline; and

(d) by what percentage the demand of rice is likely to be met with the imports?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT). (a) There is reasonable quantity of stocks of rice with the public agencies. The Government, however, keeps open the option to import foodgrains as and when considered necessary.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

(c) In the absence of firm estimates of Kharif production, it is too early to quantify the anticipated shortfall.